



UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / www.bluegrassdiveclub.com

February 2019

Volume 50, Number 2

February's Club Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, February 26**
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7

Location: **Bronte Bistro**
 Lexington Green

Program: DVD on Little Cayman by Dan Miller

President's Message

By Mark Kidd



First I would like to apologies for missing my first meeting as President. Stella and I have had a lot on our plate and I hope this will be the first and last time that happens.

The Joseph Beth is a great place to have a meeting and the food is pretty darn good as well.

This month we will repeat our scheduled program on Little Cayman and the Bloody Bay Wall our Memorial Day Dive trip which would qualify as a top 10 dive site in this hemisphere.

I have had the pleasure of diving the wall with Stan Waterman, Jean Michael Cousteau and my older son Mark W. years ago and we were not disappointed.

So we still have a few openings available and we may be able to get a sizable discount if we pick up a few more so come to the meeting for more info.

For those of you interested in something different we are working on a spring's trip to Florida this year and maybe a Keys trip as well.

I tried to come up with some fancy ending to my column like stay wet but with the weather this year that is going to happen anyway! 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



With the Little Cayman trip coming up pretty soon, I thought I would bring these out of the safe. The pics for this Month are from Little Cayman. 🚩

2019 BGDC Officer's

Mark Kidd, President	221-7104
Kris Harn, Vice President	333-6911
Kathryn Bowers, Secretary	619-0166
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Trip Director - Open Position	
Bart Bertello, Safety Info Dir.	502-299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	608-0682

Vice President's Report

By Kris Harn



I look forward to seeing you all at our February meeting at Bronte Bistro. We will have appetizers/snacks at the meeting;

February's program will be a DVD on Little Cayman. Thank you Dan Miller.

If you have information on a potential dive trip. We would love to hear from you. Please contact us or come to a meeting and let us know what kind of trip you would like. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2019 Membership Dues

Student (High School or College ID) ..	\$10.00
Single & Family (1 diver)	30.00
Family (non divers).....	30.00
Family (2 or more divers)	40.00

Renewal: Please send payment to the address listed below, please make sure there is a correct indication of your mailing address, phone number and it is very important to indicate an email address.

Contact / Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club c/o
Dan Miller
824 Gunpower Drive

Lexington, KY 40509

New Members: Visit the website to fill out an on-line form or to access a Microsoft Word printable form. [CLICK HERE](#). 🚩



Past Trip Director's Report

By Steve Gahafer



Little Cayman

This should be a great trip with valet diving at your service. If you have never been to Little Cayman now is your chance to go. The dates are May 25th – June 1st.

You can find out more about this trip on the web site at [Little Cayman 2019](#). If you have any questions please email me.



Papua New Guinea

This trip will be one that people will be taking about for a long time.

We start out at the [Rapopo Plantation Resort](#) September 4th-12th 2019. This part of the trip includes 5 days of 2 tank dives.

On the last day, while letting our equipment get good and dry, we have arranged for a full day tour consisting of some of the local World War II sites. Some of the sites include Mt. Tarvuvur Volcano, Admiral Yamamoto's Bunker, and the Japanese Barge Tunnel. These are just three of the several sites we will visit.

The second part of the trip is optional and starts at the end of the dive portion of the trip. It is a 5 day/4 night tour September 12th – 16th that includes two full days with VIP Passes to the [Goroka Festival](#).

We will also travel to the village of the [Asaro Mudmen](#) to spend the day with them.

The trip page is up on the web site and waiting for people to sign up. We already have four people confirmed with at least two more seriously considering it. We only have 10 confirmed spots. If you are thinking about this trip now is the time to sign.

I would like to thank everyone for all your support and help the past two years I have been on the board. Because of some things that have changed over the past year I am not able to continue on the Board.

The Trip Director spot is still open and really needs to be filled so the club has a person actively looking for new trips. If you would like more information about it please feel free to contact me or another board member.

Again, thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement of the past couple of years.

We are always looking for new places to go so if you have any suggestions, let me know. 🚩



Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



During the cold of winter our thoughts and planning often turn to warmer activities and places. It is not too late to sign up for the Little Cayman 2019 dive trip that is happening May 25 to June 1, 2019. We have 9 people signed up and going. 1 person is needing a roommate.

The Papua New Guinea 2019 trip that is happening Sept. 4 – 12, 2019 is filling up nicely. Also, we have a wonderful trip extension in PNG to the Goroka Highlands Cultural Festival happening Sept. 12 – 16, 2019. We have 7 people confirmed on this trip so far and a few more that are considering.

If you know anyone interested in learning more about SCUBA diving, invite them to come to our meetings. They are open to members and non-members. Share our website and meeting info.

Remember, a diver never leaves his Buddy. Do your part to help bring more people into the diving world and our BGDC community. 🚩



Safety Information Director

By Bart Bertello



I Learned About Diving Safety from That

My focus is to provide you relevant safety information for your use. Each article will focus on a specific safety risk. I will draw from my experience, hopefully yours, and the dive community to highlight real safety risks that we must be aware of. So if you see or hear of something that we could all learn from, please pass it to me. There is nothing like firsthand experience to drive a point home. Today's lesson is:

Rubber and Plastics Wear Out

When I was researching last month's article on regulator hose failures, I knew what I could write about this month. Rubber and plastic failures, especially straps and ties, on scuba equipment can be just as serious. One of our club members related to me a more than little scary experience of when his regulator mouthpiece separated from his regulator due to failure of the plastic tie. One moment he was inhaling air, the next moment he was inhaling water! Luckily, he was close to a buddy and was able to handle the situation.

I recall an example while diving the Bonaire "Wildside". This is a specialty drift dive with strong currents that can require considerable effort. Toward the end of the dive, fortunately, a big guy lost his fin strap. (I don't remember if it was the strap or the plastic buckle that failed.) Not wanting to lose his fin, he was carrying it. Now he was down to one leg and one arm in less than ideal conditions. We all came to his aid and helped him, and his fin, safely onto the boat. He did know how to swim

Safety Info Director Cont.

with one fin (wrapping legs and dolphin kick), and tried to shrug it off. Nothing doing. There was an emphatic lecture by the Dutch dive master and rightfully so.

Speaking of straps, how about failure of your critical mask strap. Back in the day, when rubber materials weren't nearly as good, we were trained to handle that. But today's materials can still fail if allowed to. The web is full of replacement fin and mask straps so they are being changed, hopefully always before hitting the water.

The above events are the kinds of things that can trigger a real emergency scenario such as water ingestion, exhaustion, emergency ascent, etc. Don't let it happen to you!



On the mouthpiece separation, the skinny plastic tie attaches it to the regulator. These plastic ties are used for everything, are available everywhere, have many trade names such as Zip-Tie and Tie-Wrap, and the market is flooded with cheap knockoffs. You'll

see them used all over scuba equipment. My career in aircraft engineering has exposed me to these little devils from the beginning. There are federal regulations that control their use on airplanes. Beware, they come in many grades of quality, durability, and strength. Unless you know something about them they may all look alike. Regulator mouthpieces are replaced for many reasons and **only the manufacturer recommended plastic tie should be used.** It may be selected specifically for that application. And it may cost 3 dollars instead of 3 cents but look identical. Make sure yours is the correct one.



Was it an incorrect plastic tie that failed? Maybe or maybe not. Chances are though it was the correct fin strap. Either way, the part may have just worn out, or was partially damaged and just needed time to fail. Plastics and synthetic rubbers (silicone, neoprene, nitrile, etc.) are wonderful materials but they do wear out from use, aging, and exposure to the elements. Being relatively soft they are particularly vulnerable to damage from impact and abrasion. Be aware. You must pay particular attention to rubber straps, plastic buckles, and any plastic ties on your critical

Safety Info Director Cont.

scuba equipment. Before use, inspect and test for:

1. Aging and exposure: stiffness (loss of spring and resiliency), hardening, fading/discoloration. Buckles that have lost their "snap".
2. Wear and tear and damage: cracking (stretch it out and look closely), tears, abrasion, and gouges.
3. Deformation, kinking, wrinkling; usually from improper storage.
4. Give your materials a good test by pulling, pushing, stretching, and buckling/unbuckling like normal usage.
5. When in doubt as to the condition of anything, replace it. If you're not a DIYer, your local dive shops can handle it easily.

Fortunately, the prevention of these problems is just replacement of a relatively inexpensive part. All it takes is a little diligence in your dive gear maintenance. Make it part of your safe diving practices. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2019 Calendar

February

12, Tuesday Board Meeting
26, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

March

12, Tuesday Board Meeting
26, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting



April

9, Tuesday Board Meeting
23, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
First person, one free drink...

May

4, Saturday Club's Derby Party
14, Tuesday Board Meeting
28, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

June

11, Tuesday Board Meeting
25, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

